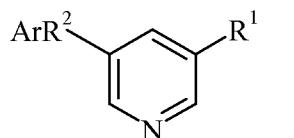


**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Withdrawn) A method for treating pain or anxiety in a patient which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula 1:



(1)

wherein

Ar is phenyl or napthyl each of which may be substituted by one or more C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> acyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> acylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylsulfonylamino, mono-, di- or trifluorinated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl, substituents which may be the same or different and may bear a CONH<sub>2</sub>, CONHCH<sub>3</sub>, CON(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>CN, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CH<sub>2</sub>NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> CN, CH<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NHCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NHCO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NHCH<sub>3</sub>, NHCOC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, or N(S(O)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> substituent;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halo, R<sup>4</sup>, CN, C(NO<sub>2</sub>)R<sup>3</sup>, C(NO-R<sup>4</sup>)R<sup>3</sup>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OR<sup>3</sup>, COR<sup>3</sup>, CF<sub>3</sub>, SR<sup>4</sup>, S(O)R<sup>4</sup>, S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, COCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NHCOR<sup>3</sup>, C(NOR<sup>3</sup>)NH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OCOR<sup>3</sup>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, CON(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NHCO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup>, CONH<sub>2</sub>, CSNH<sub>2</sub>, C(NH)NHOR<sup>3</sup>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, or CONHNHCOR<sup>3</sup>;

R<sup>2</sup> is 1,2-ethenediyl or 1,2-ethynediyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an N-oxide thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein

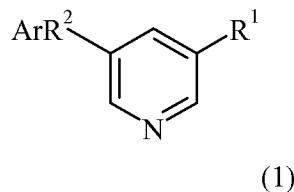
Ar is phenyl or naphthyl each of which may be substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>acyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> acylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylsulfonylamino or mono-, di- or trifluorinated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; and

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halo, R<sup>4</sup>, CN, C(NO<sub>H</sub>)R<sup>3</sup>, C(NOR<sup>4</sup>)R<sup>3</sup>, (CH)<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>4</sup>, OR<sup>3</sup>, COR<sup>3</sup> or CF<sub>3</sub>.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patient is a human.

5. (Currently amended) A compound of formula 1:



wherein

Ar is 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 2-fluorophenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 3,4-dimethylphenyl, 3,5-dimethylphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 2,5-dimethylphenyl, 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 2-methoxyphenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 3,4-difluorophenyl, 3,5-difluorophenyl, 3,4,5-trifluorophenyl, 3-bromophenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-aminophenyl, 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl, 3-hydroxyphenyl, 3-acetylphenyl, 5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl, 3-chloro-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-hydroxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-methoxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-ethoxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-isopropoxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-isopropylphenyl, 3-ethylphenyl, 3-methyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-trifluoromethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-cyano-4-fluorophenyl, 3-amino-4-fluorophenyl, 3-trifluoromethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl, 3-nitro-4-fluorophenyl, 3-aminocarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-N-methylaminocarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl,

3-N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-carboxyl-4-fluorophenyl,  
3-methoxycarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-acetylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl,  
3-methysulfonylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl,  
3-pivaloylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-trifluoromethoxyphenyl,  
3-aminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-dimethylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl,  
3-cyanomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-hydroxymethylphenyl,  
3-{[(2-cyanoethyl)-methylamino]-methyl}-4-fluorophenyl,  
4-fluoro-3-[(isopropylmethylamino)-methyl]phenyl,  
4-fluoro-3-isopropylaminomethylphenyl, 4-fluoro-3-propylaminomethylphenyl,  
3-ethylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methyl aminomethylphenyl, or  
3-isobutyrylamino-4-fluorophenyl;

$R^1$  is halo,  $R^4$ , CN,  $C(NO)R^3$ ,  $C(NO-R^4)R^3$ ,  $(CH_2)_2CO_2R^4$ ,  $(CH_2)_nOR^3$ ,  $COR^3$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $SR^4$ ,  
 $S(O)R^4$ ,  $S(O)_2R^4$ ,  $COCH_2CO_2R^3$ ,  $NHSO_2R^4$ ,  $NHCOR^3$ ,  $C(NOR^3)NH_2$ ,  $CH_2OCOR^3$ ,  $(CH_2)_nNH_2$ ,  
 $CON(CH_3)_2$ ,  $(CH_2)_nNHCO_2R^4$ ,  $CO_2R^3$ ,  $CONH_2$ ,  $CSNH_2$ ,  $C(NH)NHOR^3$ ,  $(CH_2)_nN(CH_3)_2$ , or  
 $CONHNHCOR^3$ ;

$R^2$  is 1,2-ethynediyl;

$R^3$  is hydrogen or  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl;

$R^4$  is  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl; and

$n$  is 0 or 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an N-oxide thereof; ~~provided when Ar is 4-cyanophenyl,  $R^4$  is a value other than CN.~~

6 – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 5 wherein  $R^1$  is bromo, iodo, fluoro, chloro,  $C(NO)R^3$ ,  $C(NO-R^4)R^3$ , methyl, CN,  $CH_2CO_2R^4$ ,  $(CH_2)_nOR^3$ ,  $COR^3$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $SR^4$ ,  $S(O)R^4$ ,  $S(O)_2R^4$ ,  $COCH_2CO_2R^3$ ,  $NHS(O)_2R^3$ ,  $NHCOR^3$ ,  $CH_2OC(O)R^3$ ,  $(CH_2)_nNH_2$ ,  $CON(CH_3)_2$ ,  $(CH_2)_nNHCO_2R^4$ ,  $CO_2R^3$ ,  $CONH_2$ ,  $CSNH_2$ ,  $C(NH)NHOR^3$ ,  $(CH_2)_nN(CH_3)_2$  or  $CONHNHCOR^3$ .

11. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or *t*-butyl.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is CN, iodo, chloro, methyl or COR<sup>3</sup>.

14. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is CN.

15 – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is methyl.

18. (Previously presented) A compound Claim 10 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen.

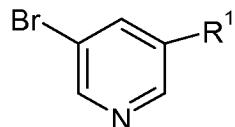
19 – 20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A compound of Claim 5 which is:

5-(4-Fluorophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile, 5-(3-Cyanophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile or 5-(3,4-difluorophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile.

22. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in Claim 5 which comprises:

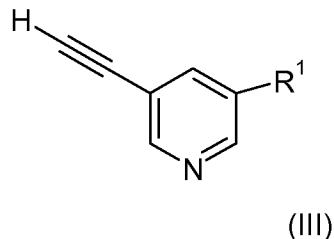
(a) for a compound of formula 1 in which R<sup>2</sup> is 1,2-ethenediyl, reacting with a compound of formula II



(II)

with a compound of formula Ar-CHCH<sub>2</sub> in a Heck coupling;

(b) for a compound of formula 1 in which R<sup>2</sup> is alkynyl, reacting with a compound of formula III



in a Sonogashira coupling with a compound of formula Ar-I or Ar-Br in a suitable solvent;

whereafter, for any of the above procedures, when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula 1 is required, it is obtained by reacting the basic form of such a compound of formula 1 with an acid affording a physiologically acceptable counterion, or, for a compound of formula 1 which bears an acidic moiety, reacting the acidic form of such a compound of formula 1 with a base which affords a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, or by any other conventional procedure; and wherein, unless more specifically described, the value of R<sup>1</sup>, Ar and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined in Claim 5.

23. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, a compound of formula 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in Claim 5.

24 - 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 5 which is 5-(3-Chlorophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.